



## ***Frequently Asked Questions About the Russell Township Cemetery Levy***

*July 1, 2013*

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The Russell Township Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer are proposing that the Township undertake an new 0.25 mill 5-year levy for the maintenance and operation of the Township's cemeteries. This 5-year levy will serve to set in motion self-sustainment of the cemetery operation which has historically been funded predominantly by the Township's General Fund. This additional 0.25 mill 5-year levy will be presented to voters at the November 5, 2013 election.

The Township operates and maintains the historic Briar Hill Meeting House and Cemetery which later was expanded into the Old Riverview Cemetery area. This historic and beautiful tree lined parcel is located on the south side of Fairmount Road just west of Chillicothe Road along the bank of the scenic Chagrin River. Each year Russell Township's Historical Society holds its Memorial Day Ceremonies at the Briar Hill Meeting House. This ceremony attracts veterans and residents young and old in honoring those who have served to make our country and community great. The newer Riverview Memorial Park, located across the street on the north side of Fairmount, is the Township's active cemetery.

***Question:*** How large are the Township's cemeteries?

***Answer:*** The Township operates and maintains approximately 11.35 Acres of cemetery land on Fairmount Road. The Briar Hill Cemetery is 4.35 acres and is the original Township cemetery. The original section was expanded into the Old Riverview section which consists of 2.0 scenic acres. Across the street, the Riverview Memorial Cemetery resides on 5.0 acres.



**Question:** How much will this levy generate in revenue and what is the cost to the taxpayer?

**Answer:** This 0.25 mill 5-year levy would generate an estimated \$63,025 per year in revenue for cemetery use at 100% collection and would cost the owner of a single family owner-occupied home with a market value of \$100,000 approximately \$8.61 per year.

**Question:** What is the Briar Hill Meeting House?

**Answer:** Originally built in 1850-1852, the Briar Hill Meeting House served both as a meeting hall and a place of worship. This historic building is scenically situated in the Briar Hill Cemetery and is 1200 sq ft in size.

**Question:** What are the capacities of the cemeteries?

**Answer:** The Briar Hill and Old Riverview Cemetery sections are at near full capacity. The Riverview Memorial Cemetery is at less than 25% capacity.

**Question:** What type of roadways run through the Cemetery property?

**Answer:** The Briar Hill and Old Riverview areas have gravel roadways while the Riverview Memorial Park's roadways are asphalt.

**Question:** What other maintenance issues face the Cemetery property?

**Answer:** The Briar Hill and Old Riverview areas are heavily lined with very mature trees which are in need of maintenance, pruning, and care. All cemetery property has roadside fencing that is showing its age and needs to be replaced or repaired. Ongoing maintenance of roadways is required for safe access to the property.